



## COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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### **PERTUSSIS CASES CONTINUE STEADY CLIMB** *Get Immunized to Prevent Spread of Whooping Cough*

In San Diego County, 16 new cases where other children may have been exposed to pertussis were reported this past week, County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) officials said today. The total number of confirmed pertussis cases for this year is 782 including two infant deaths. San Diego County had a total of 143 confirmed cases in 2009 and doubled its previous record of 371 confirmed cases set in 2005.

Pertussis, commonly known as whooping cough, is often mistaken for a common cold at first. As a result, people are usually unaware that they have the highly contagious illness and are infectious to others for up to 21 days.

"The incidence of pertussis remains high which is why we recommend that children and adults who are in close contact with children get immunized," said Wilma Wooten, M.D., M.P.H., County Public Health Officer. "Without immunity, all age groups can contract it, but infants can develop life-threatening complications."

As a reminder, the County will be offering free flu and Tdap vaccinations to those 10 and older in San Marcos, El Cajon and Chula Vista on Nov. 5. The vaccinations will be offered from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in San Marcos at City Hall, 1 Civic Center Drive, and in Chula Vista at the HHSA South Region Family Resource Center, 690 Oxford Street. They will be given from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Ronald Reagan Community Center, 195 East Douglas Avenue in El Cajon. Residents can also visit their primary care doctors or stop in an HHSA Public Health Center.

The CDC recommends that children get one dose of DTaP vaccine at the following ages: 2 months; 4 months; 6 months; 15 to 18 months and 4 to 6 years.

The CDC also recommends that children receive a booster shot of Tdap vaccine at 10-11 yrs. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) recommends an adolescent-adult pertussis booster vaccine (Tdap) for everyone 10 years or older who has not yet received it, especially women of childbearing age, before, during, or immediately after pregnancy; and other people, including household contacts, caregivers, and health care workers, who have contact with pregnant women or infants. Children 7-9 years of age who did not receive all of their routine childhood shots are recommended to receive a Tdap booster dose.

A typical case of pertussis in children and adults starts with a cough and runny nose for one-to-two weeks, followed by weeks to months of rapid coughing fits that sometimes end with a whooping sound. Fever, if present, is usually mild. The disease is treatable with antibiotics.

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For more information about whooping cough, please call the HHSA Immunization Branch at (866) 358-2966, or visit the web site at [www.sdiz.org](http://www.sdiz.org).

This week's new pertussis cases where there is a potential for public exposure are:

- An 11-year-old who was up-to-date on immunizations and attends Pacific Beach Middle in the San Diego Unified School District. Contact: Linda Zintz (619) 725-5568.
- An 11-year-old who was due for a booster shot and attends Burton Tiffany Elementary School in the Chula Vista Elementary School District. Contact: Anthony Millican (619) 435-9600 ext. 1328.
- A 1-year-old who was up-to-date on immunizations and attends Montessori School in Oceanside. Contact Janaki Sarathchandar (760) 941-3883.
- A 4-year-old who was unimmunized and attends Westminster Christian Preschool in Escondido. Contact: Mais Marar (760) 745-3160.
- A 7-year-old who was unimmunized and attends Bernardo Elementary School in the Escondido Union School District. Contact: Randy Garcia (760) 432-2247.
- A 15-year-old who was not up-to-date on immunizations and attends Point Loma High School in the San Diego Unified School District. Contact: Linda Zintz (619) 725-5568.
- A 15-year-old who was due for a booster shot and attends Christian High School in El Cajon. Contact: Chuck Leslie (619) 201-8800.
- A 9-year-old who was up-to-date on immunizations and attends Murdock Elementary School in the La Mesa-Spring Valley School District. Contact: David Kinzel (619) 668-5700 ext. 6207.
- An 8-year-old who was up-to-date on immunizations and attends Paul Ecke Central Elementary School in the Encinitas Union School District. Contact: Timothy Baird (760) 944-4300 ext. 4111.
- A 4-year-old who was due for a booster shot and attends Early Childhood Learning Center at Point Loma Nazarene University. Contact: Susan Rogers (619) 849-2245.
- A 16-year-old who was due for a booster shot and attends Youth Day Center/Reflections, North in the Probation Department San Marcos location. Escondido. Contact: Fernando Uribe (760) 752-1859/(760) 752-1842.
- A 7-year-old who was up-to-date on immunizations and attends Green Elementary School in the San Diego Unified School District. Contact: Linda Zintz (619) 725-5568.
- A 2-year-old who was up-to-date on immunizations and attends Children's Learning Center in Oceanside. Contact: Al and Cindy Collins (760) 439-2223.
- An 11-year-old who was up-to-date on immunizations and attends Thurgood Marshall Elementary School in the Chula Vista Elementary School District. Contact: Anthony Millican (619) 435-9600 ext. 1328.
- A 14-year-old who was due for a booster shot and attends Sweetwater High School in the Sweetwater Union High School District. Contact: Lillian Leopold (619) 691-5599.
- A 13-year-old who was up-to-date on immunizations and attends High Tech Middle Media Arts School in San Diego. Contact: Joanna Clark (619) 243-5015.